

SHILDON AND EAST THICKLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report for the Year 1896,

BY

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Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report:—

VITAL STATISTICS.

DEATHS.

During the year 160 deaths were registered as belonging to the District; and as regards sex, they were in exactly equal proportions—viz.:—80 males and 80 females. (Three of these took place OUTSIDE the district; one at Sedgefield Asylum, and two at Auckland Workhouse. It is difficult to understand why one of the latter should have been returned to swell our death-rate, in as much as the young gentleman never saw Shildon, nor enjoyed a separate existence here. To relieve our neighbours, however, I have included him in our death roll.)

With an estimated population at mid-year of 10,082, this yields a death-rate of 15.8 per thousand. For England and Wales it was 17.1.

The deaths of children under one year reached a total of 43, equal to a rate of 131.9 per thousand born, as compared with 143 in 1895, and 239 in 1894. In 1896 for England and Wales, it was 148.

It is a curious fact that only 9 of these 43 babies attained the age of 6 months.—

27	of them had an average existence of 5 months.
10	„ „ „ „ 12 days.
4	„ „ „ „ 4 hours.
and 2	of 30 minutes each.

The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic diseases numbered 21; equal to a rate of 2.18 per thousand of population—precisely the same as for the whole of England and Wales.

In 1895 there were 31 deaths ascribed to these causes, representing a rate of 3.2 per thousand. A death ascribed to Puerperal Septicaemia was returned to the Registrar, but was not notified.

BIRTHS.

For the year 326 births were recorded.—153 males and 173 females,—yielding a rate equal to 32.3 per thousand of population, against 39.3 in 1895; 34.5 in 1894; and 36.2 in 1893.

With an increasing population it is difficult to account for the decrease in the number of births. It nevertheless represents a natural increase by excess of births over deaths in 1896, of 166.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW:—

I.—The Mortality from all Causes at ages specified, for year ended December 31st, 1896.

Under 1 year.	Between 1 and 5.	5 and 15.	15—25.	25—65.	65—70.	70—80.	80—90.
43	37	1	8	49	8	10	4



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2.—Total deaths for 5 years in each Sub-District, with estimated Population of each at middle of year.

	Estimate of Population 1896	DEATHS IN				
		1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
OLD SHILDON	... 3282	42	79	48	85	57
CHAPEL ROW	... 2720	46	54	41	50	42
NEW SHILDON	... 2289	30	37	34	72	40
EAST THICKLEY	... 1791	39	25	22	46	23
IN ASYLUM AND WORKHOUSE		3				
TOTALS	... 10,082	160	195	145	253	162

3.—Zymotic Mortality in each Sub-District for 1896.

	OLD SHILDON.	CHAPEL ROW.	NEW SHILDON	EAST THICKLEY
Smallpox
Scarlatina	...	1	1	...
Diphtheria
Fever	2
Measles	1	2
Whooping Cough	...	2	4	...
Diarrhoea	...	1	...	2
TOTALS	...	5	4	6

4.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified in—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
SMALLPOX
SCARLATINA	...	74	14	47	63
DIPHTHERIA	...	3	2	10	16
CROUP	1	1	3
FEVER (Enteric and Continued)	...	17	39	46	196
PUERPERAL FEVER	1	...	2
ERYSIPelas	...	11	12	13	25
TOTALS	...	105	69	117	305
					87

5.—POPULATION. Births and Deaths for 16 Years.

POPULATION.	Year.	Births.	DEATHS.		
			Under 1 year.	From Zymotic Diseases.	At all Ages.
Estimated.—10082	...	326	43	21	160
," 9986	1895	393	77	31	195
," 9890	1894	342	49	7	145
," 9795	1893	355	85	82	253
," 9702	1892	371	51	10	162
Census.—9584	1891	412	70	27	227
Estimated.—	1890	326	56	27	177
,"	1889	359	71	36	193
,"	1888	337	44	6	160
,"	1887	367	60	15	167
,"	1886	335	41	20	151
,"	1885	356	53	17	175
,"	1884	387	59	23	169
,"	1883	368	58	27	182
,"	1882	369	51	57	200
Census.—8703	1881	381	47	56	170

Phthisis caused	...	...	4 deaths.
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy		27	„
Heart Diseases	...	11	„
Injuries	...	2	„

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Although the cases notified in 1896 numbered 36 in excess of the year immediately preceding, the difference is more than made up by the epidemic of Scarlatina; 74 cases having been returned in 1896, while 14 only were reported in 1895.

The Typhoid cases only numbered 17; in place of 39 in 1895, 46 in 1894, and 196 in 1893.

These figures show a very satisfactory and markedly progressive diminution—which I trust, may, not without reason, be attributed to our persistent efforts to improve our general sanitation, and particularly, I feel more than ever convinced, to the use of the Air-tight Sanitary Pails.

As before mentioned, Scarlatina prevailed to a considerable extent during the year, as did also Measles and Whooping Cough (neither of which are notifiable, and I cannot therefore give exact figures), and seeing that all these diseases were more or less epidemic throughout the County, and in many populous centres attended with a high rate of mortality, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that only ten cases had a fatal termination,—the deaths being attributed generally to Bronchitis or Pneumonia,—their most frequent complications.

DIARRHŒA proved fatal in five cases, and they were all examples of ordinary infantile Diarrhœa, with the exception of one which occurred in a woman over eighty years of age.

SMALLPOX.—No cases observed. I very much fear the neglect of Vaccination will end some day in the loss of many valuable lives. During my professional career I have seen a good deal of Smallpox, and have passed through several epidemics, and personal observation has fully convinced me of the value of Vaccination as a preventative. “I practice what I preach,” inasmuch as I have myself been vaccinated three times, and will again submit to the operation, if the disease should make its appearance. I am satisfied that in proportion to the *goodness* and *amount* of vaccination, in the same proportion will people enjoy immunity from the disease. I do not say that Vaccination will entirely prevent Smallpox (neither will an attack of Smallpox itself prevent it) but I do say that in the very great majority of cases good Vaccination will rob the disease of its terrors.

I would unhesitatingly recommend everyone to be vaccinated and re-vaccinated after a few years.

The Operation should be done with care, and the patient whilst passing through the various stages be as carefully attended to as after any other surgical operation. To those who object to humanized lymph I would say be done with Calf lymph.

INFLUENZA prevailed to some extent during the last quarter of the year; the cases were, however, mostly of mild type, and unattended by fatal consequences.

GENERAL SANITATION.

In my investigations and inspections I have from time to time visited special localities and consulted with Mr. Hopwood as to the best measures to adopt in order to remedy Sanitary defects, and abate nuisances.

After much legal squabbling, the insanitary condition of Garbutt's Buildings has been rectified.

It is a general instruction to the Surveyor, whenever a Typhoid case is notified,—with a view to prevent spread of the disease,—to supply at once an Air-tight Pail, and with as little delay as possible, to see to the thorough clearing out, and disinfection of any Ashpit or Privy, etc., contaminated by the excreta of the patient.

After Scarlatinous cases, too, whenever practicable, the sick room bedding, etc. is ordered to be stoved with sulphur, and other means are taken to stop mischief, the patient at the same time being directed to wash freely with Carbolic Soap and warm water once a day at least, till the skin has become perfectly free from desquamation. The old clothes worn during convalescence are ordered to be burnt.

I append the formal summary of work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department, during the year.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding Unfit for Habitation ...	94 6 2 2	63 2 0 0	90 6 2
Lodging-houses	.... ....		
Dairies and Milkshops	....		
Cowsheds	.... ....	4	0	4
Bakehouses	.... ....		
Slaughter-houses	.... ....	3	0	3
Ashpits and Privies	.... ....	26	8	26
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	....	6	1	6
Water-closets....	.... ....	7	0	7
Defective Yard Paving	....	21	9	20
House	Defective Traps No Disconnection from Sewers ... Other Faults ...	66 32 47	8 7 2	60 32 44
Drainage.				
Water Supply	.... ....	2	2	1
Pigsties	.... ....	12	2	12
Animals Improperly Kept	....		
Offensive Trades	.... ....		
Smoke Nuisances	.... ....	4	1	4
Other Nuisances	.... ....	16	2	16
TOTALS	.... ....	348	107	333

STREETS AND FOOTPATHS.

Many of these are in a deplorable state, and require immediate attention.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The Council should insist on effectual drainage of subsoil, where necessary, and in every case require means to be taken to prevent dampness rising up the walls.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Three cases of irregularity and nuisance came under observation, and after formal notice were rectified. Speaking generally, the Slaughter houses have been satisfactorily conducted.

SCAVENGING.

Now and again I have had to complain about ashpits not being completely cleared out. This I regard as a matter of most serious consequence,—neglect of it probably at some future time may mean an outbreak of Typhoid, and I ask the Council to make it very distinctly understood, that they insist on its being carried out with the utmost thoroughness and regularity.

Quite recently, some cases have occurred in children, where I have reason to believe the disease was contracted in this way.

WATER SUPPLY.

For a short time the supply was limited, while the Company were duplicating the mains between Etherley Dene and the foot of Adelaides Bank. Otherwise the supply was excellent, both as regards quality and quantity.

In March last, I forwarded a sealed sample of this water, drawn in my own house, to a

leading London expert, for examination, who reported thus :—

" The water is very slightly turbid, looked at in a two-foot tube, and on standing yields a minute trace of deposit, consisting mainly of vegetable fibres, a few algae and their spores.

The water shows no noticeable signs of pollution by sewage, but is slightly contaminated by vegetable (peaty?) matter. It is very soft, and is in every respect well suited for domestic use. The vegetable matter present, although it renders the water, when in bulk, somewhat unsightly, is not present in sufficient quantity to exert any injurious effect on persons drinking it."

ANALYTICAL DETAILS.

Appearance in 2-ft Tube	...	...	...	...	...	...	slightly turbid.
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	markedly brownish yellow.	
Smell	...	...	...	...	...	...	none.
Deposit	...	...	...	...	...	...	minute trace.
Microscopic Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	satisfactory.
Nitrous Acid	...	...	...	...	...	...	none.
Phosphoric Acid	...	...	...	...	...	...	minute trace.
Injurious Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	none.
Hardness before boiling	...	...	...	...	...	3 degrees.	Clark.
" after "	...	...	...	...	...	3 degrees.	"

GRAINS PER GALLON.

Oxygen Absorption	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·143.
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 220° F.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5·38.
Colour of	...	...	...	...	...	...	brownish.
Behaviour of ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	blackens strongly.
On Ignition	...	...	...	...	...	...	burns off readily.
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	..	...	...	...	...	0·875.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·01.
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·002.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·0034.

Signed,

MEDICAL SCHOOL,
EASTON STREET,
WESTMINSTER.

A. DUPRÉ,

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

In December, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board held an enquiry at the Workhouse, in the matter of a joint Hospital for the Auckland Rural and the Shildon and Willington Urban Districts. The Scheme was not opposed.

I append Statistical Forms, duly filled in, as required by the Local Government Board.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

S. FIELDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

